March 21, 1989

Dear Harold,

It was wonderful to get your letter. It has been a very long time. Your letter was right; I am busy and detached from the past. I've thought about you and Lil a lot. As you can imagine, I've been caught up in the hectic pace of my current life and the result is that I've been pretty awful about staying in touch with people who I care about.

Things have changed dramatically for me since the last time we were in touch. I'm still working for Lucas, but the company has been through many changes. A few years ago, I began growing quite restless with practicing law and decided that it was time for me to move on to more creative pursuits...undoubtedly inspired by the environment that I work in. At about that time, I hired a very senior attorney to work for me, and he ultimately succeeded me. I was asked to assume the role of Vice President of Licensing. Licensing is the division of the company that is responsible for marketing all of the ancillary products that come out of our film properties...things such as Star Wars toys, books, records, and the like. I'd had a lot of exposure to this field as General Counsel, but now, for the first time, I was asked to run a business on my own. It's a very different responsibility, and one that I was eager to assume. It's been a trying, growing process for me, but on the whole I've been very happy.

The new job combines the best of business skills and creativity. Like always at Lucasfilm, there are a myriad of opportunities just waiting to be seized. This job allows me to seize more of them. I'm also responsible for marketing our properties worldwide, which means that I have had to do extensive foreign travel. That's been a mixed blessing. I've become the resident expert on Japan, having travelled there now several times and done a few major deals. I'm also travelling a lot to Europe and Brazil. It's wonderful to get such a global perspective and participate in so many diverse cultures, but it's also quite draining. I spend too much time on the road, which is one of the reasons that my time has been so limited.

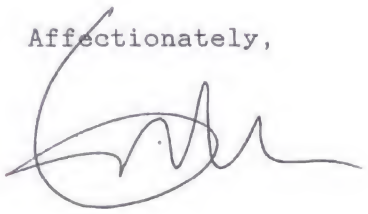
Duane is doing well and sends his best to you and Lil. He is working as a systems analyst for Pacific Bell and is happy with his job, other than the fact that he has a very long commute (50 minutes each way). We've enjoyed living in San Francisco.

With the 25th anniversary of the assassination last year, I was reminded of how distanced I feel from the subject. I was

approached early on for the NOVA special, and in talking to those people it hit me that my research into the assassination has become a part of my past. It was a vitally important part of my life and my development, but today it is remote. I knew they were talking to Tink Thompson, who is now also living in San Francisco and is a minor celebrity with his private detective practice (which I suppose is a bit more interesting than studying Kierkigarde). I figured then that they would wind up dedicating a big part of their show to him, and indeed they did.

The press coverage of the 25th anniversary taught me something about the press that I should have learned a lot earlier. The press as an institution is able to deal with macro things -- with trends, with concepts, with the "big picture". It is not equipped to deal with micro things -- with details, with elaborate facts. The reporting on the 25th anniversary, particularly the specials, was for the most part pure bullshit. The press can find a man like David Lifton and interview him, but it's not equipped to deal with what he has to say. The result is that pure fiction gets embraced as a sort of quasi-fact. It's sad, but it's real.

I hope that you and Lil are well, and that your recovery from your cataract operation is successful. When you have time, please write to me to let me know more about what is happening with both of you. I'd like to know what you are working on now, and hear your reflections -- about the past, as well as about where we are today. If you feel up to it, I'd love to hear from you.

Please send my love to Lil. I miss you both.

Affectionately,